

APOSTATE AND COWARDLY PREACHERS

October 28, 1997 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org; for instructions about subscribing and unsubscribing or changing addresses, see the information paragraph at the end of the article) -

The root problem with the ills of American society are not social or moral. Abortion, homosexuality, feminism, the sexual revolution, these are all symptoms. I believe the root problem, according to the Word of God, is the apostasy, compromise, and cowardliness of the preachers.

The prophet Jeremiah was called to proclaim God's judgment upon apostate Israel of old. An entire chapter (23) at the heart of his prophecy is dedicated to rebuking the wickedness of the prophets and priests. In 23:15 the Lord identifies the heart of apostate Israel's problem: "...from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land.

The profaneness which had spread throughout Israel's society found its source in the prophets. It was the prophet's job to preach God's Word to the people, to teach them to understand the law of God, to apply the law of God to their daily lives, to exhort them to keep God's law in every detail. That was the prophet's job, and the prophets of Israel failed; as a result, wickedness spread throughout the land. The people were not continually reminded of God's holiness; therefore, they turned from holiness. The preachers did not teach the people to fear God, so the people did not fear God. The people were responsible for their sin before God, but the Bible tells us that the root of the matter lay at the feet of the prophets and priests.

Nothing has changed. Profaneness has gone throughout North America, and the matter can be laid directly at the feet of the preachers.

APOSTATE BIBLE-DENYING PREACHERS

First of all, the land is filled with preachers who deny the blessed Word of God. They deny that it is inerrantly word-for-word inspired of God, even though the Lord Jesus Christ and the Apostles left no doubt about this. Christ quoted from every part of the Old Testament, and He quoted it always as the perfect Word of God. A preacher who questions anything in the Bible, including its statements touching upon science and its instructions in regard to homosexual and female leadership, is a dangerous, apostate, heretical Bible- and Christ-denying preacher. The land is filled with such men. Some, such as Episcopalian Bishop John Spong and Baptist university leader R. Kirby Godsey, are bold enough to admit that they do not believe everything in the Bible. Multitudes of other men are too cowardly to admit that they are unbelievers, and they even sign statements of faith claiming to believe the Bible is the inerrant Word of God, all the while disbelieving that this is true and redefining the doctrinal terms to fit their heretical views. Most of the mainstream denominations, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in

America, the American Baptist Convention, the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist, the Episcopal Church, etc., are filled with such preachers. Many others, though bearing a name that they are "evangelical," are unwilling to discipline the many false preachers in their midst. Examples are the Southern Baptist Convention and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The land is literally filled with false teachers. These men do not preach that man is a corrupt and condemned sinner before God, that only through faith in the blood atonement of Jesus Christ can a man be born again, that the Bible is the absolutely perfect and holy Word of God, that Hell is a real place of eternal torment, that Satan is a real fallen angel who is the god of this present world. These false teachers do not protect the sheep from the wolves. They are in the business for money and prestige and self-satisfaction. Why is the land filled with abortion? Because multitudes of churches do not preach that abortion is murder. Why is the land filled with adultery? Because multitudes of the preachers are adulterers and home-breakers who do not preach against this grave sin. Why is the land becoming filled with homosexuals? Because multitudes of preachers do not think that homosexuality is a sinful condition. Why is the land overrun with suicide and cries for euthanasia? Because multitudes of preachers do not lift the voice to warn the people that death is not the end, that all people are not the children of God, that the unsaved will go to eternal hell. The land is filled with profaneness because of the apostate preachers.

COWARDLY BIBLE-BELIEVING PREACHERS

The land is filled with profaneness also because of the cowardly "Bible-believing" preachers. In some ways, the sin of these men is even greater than that of the apostates. The apostate is unsaved. He has turned from the Word of God because he has never known the regenerating power of the Word of God in his own life. The cowardly Bible-believing preacher, on the other hand, has no such excuse. He claims to believe the Bible is the perfect Word of God. He claims to believe God has preserved His Word so that we have a pure, inspired Bible today. He claims to believe in the new birth and in the Devil and in eternal hell and in holiness of life and in separation from false teachers and the world. He claims to believe the Bible.

He is a coward, though. If a certain issue would cause his church to lose members, he does his best to avoid it, or, at best, to deal with it so that the people are not offended enough to leave. If a doctrine is highly controversial, he tip toes around it. After time, he becomes an expert in this. If he is invited to speak at a conference, he rationalizes to himself that it is wise to avoid divisive topics and doctrines in order to please the crowd and be well thought of and invited back.

If it were not for cowardly "Bible-believing" preachers, the apostates and heretics could not continue with their program. The greatest problem in the Southern Baptist Convention, for example (forgetting, for a moment, the unscriptural nature of the convention system itself), is not the liberals who question the perfection of the Bible, but the many alleged Bible-believers who do not lift the voice PLAINLY against liberalism and who continue year after year to support unscriptural things through the Cooperative Program. The false teachers would not be

able to maintain their place in the churches if the pastors performed their God-given task of dealing with them (Titus 1:9-13; 3:10-11) and if they separated their churches from them as the Bible demands (Romans 16:17).

NEW EVANGELICALS WHO WON'T EXPOSE MODERNISM AND ROMANISM

FUNDAMENTALISTS WHO WON'T EXPOSE CCM AND WORLDLINESS AND
POLLUTED BIBLE VERSIONS AND HUMANISTIC "CHRISTIAN" PSYCHOLOGY

An example of this is given in a new book by Gordon Sears which is scheduled to be published the first of 1998. It is titled *Apostasy and Deception in Christian Music*. He sent me a pre-publication copy for review. Several times he mentions cases of men who say they do not approve of Contemporary Christian Music, but they do not preach boldly against it:

"Time and tme again I have talked with pastors who tell me they do not approve of CCM, but even so they permit it to be used in their churches.

By the way, please do not write to me and ask about this book. It will not be available from us. If you have questions, address them directly to Bro. Sears. He does not have e-mail, but his address is P.O. Box 182, Coldwater, Michigan 49036.